(d) whether Railway Board consulted the concerned State Governments in that respect;

(e) whether State Governments came up with their requirements;

(f) whether Railways is factoring in the developmental needs of the concerned State Governments while doing so; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Railways Act, 1989 was amended with a view to set in place a mechanism to undertake commercial development of that vacant railway land and air-space which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. Consequently, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) was set up through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005. 133 sites measuring 3744 acre have been entrusted to RLDA on various Zonal Railways for commercial development.

In addition, Railways plan to utilize its vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail Coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage & Perishable Cargo Centres, and others through innovative financing models in order to earn more revenue for the railways, create additional railway infrastructure and also generate employment opportunities. Consultation with State Governments is done wherever required.

Survey of new rail line from Jogighopa to Guwahati

3355. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of survey of new railway line between Jogighopa and Guwahati *via* Barpeta, Hajoia and Sualohir;

(b) whether survey of the above new line would be completed in the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the amount fixed for the said survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No survey has been sanctioned for construction of a new railway line between Jogighopa and Guwahati *via* Barpeta, Hajoia, Sualohir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Filling up of vacant group 'C' and 'D' posts

†3356. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that group 'C' and 'D' posts are lying vacant due to retirement of employees of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.